

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GERARDO HERNANDEZ,
Plaintiff,

No. 2:20-cv-02390-TLN-JDP

V.

ARS HOSPITALITY, INC. dba
HAMPTON INN SUITES CAL EXPO,
Defendant.

ORDER

This matter is before the Court pursuant to Defendant ARS Hospitality, Inc., dba Hampton Suites Cal Expo’s (“Defendant”) motion to dismiss Gerardo Hernandez’s (“Plaintiff”) complaint. (ECF No. 5.) Plaintiff filed an opposition. (ECF No. 8.) Defendant filed a reply. (ECF No. 10.) For the reasons set forth below, the Court DENIES Defendant’s motion.

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1 **I. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND¹**

2 Plaintiff alleges he is ““physically disabled.”” (ECF No. 1 at 2.) He states he is
3 “substantially limited in his ability to walk” and “must use a wheelchair for mobility.” (*Id.*)
4 Plaintiff alleges Defendant owns and operates the Hampton Inn Suites Cal Expo (“Hotel”). (*Id.*)
5 Plaintiff alleges he visited the Hotel on July 4, 2020, for the purpose of resting for the night. (*Id.*)
6 Plaintiff alleges the Hotel’s “check-in counter was too high, which made it hard for Plaintiff to
7 use.” (*Id.* at 3.) Plaintiff further alleges he specifically requested an accessible guestroom, but
8 the room he received was not an accessible room. (*Id.*)

9 Plaintiff claims he experienced several barriers upon entering his hotel room. (*Id.*) He
10 states that the bathroom’s interior was not accessible, and the shower did not have a removable
11 handheld showerhead. (*Id.*) Additionally, Plaintiff alleges there were no grab bars at the toilet in
12 the room, and the toilet was too short. (*Id.*)

13 Plaintiff alleges that he regularly travels to the area where the Hotel is located. (*Id.* at 2).
14 However, Plaintiff states he is deterred from staying at the Hotel due to the barriers he
15 experienced. (*Id.* at 3). He alleges he will return to the facility once the barriers are removed.
16 (*Id.*)

17 On December 1, 2020, Plaintiff filed a complaint alleging Defendant violated Title III of
18 the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), the California Unruh Act (“Unruh Act”), and
19 California Health and Safety Codes § 1955 and § 1959. *See* 42 U.S.C. §§ 12182-12189; Cal. Civ.
20 Code §§ 51-52; (ECF No. 1.) On April 15, 2021, Defendant moved to dismiss Plaintiff’s claims
21 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (“Rule”) 12(b)(1) and Rule 12(b)(6) for lack of
22 subject matter jurisdiction or in the alternative failure to state a claim upon which relief can be
23 granted. (ECF No. 5-1.) Plaintiff subsequently filed an Opposition to Defendant’s Motion to
24 Dismiss on April 29, 2021. (ECF No. 8.) Defendant filed a Reply in Support of Motion to
25 Dismiss on April 24, 2021. (ECF No. 10.)

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28 ¹ The following of recitation of facts is taken, sometimes verbatim, from Plaintiff’s
 Complaint. (ECF No. 1.)

1 **II. STANDARD OF LAW**

2 **A. Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to Rule 12(b)(1)**

3 A motion under Rule 12(b)(1) allows defendants to seek dismissal of a claim or action for
4 a lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Fed. R. Civ. P. (12)(b)(1); *Brooke v. Kashl Corp.*, 362 F.
5 Supp. 3d 864, 871 (S.D. Cal. 2019). The objection that a federal court lacks subject matter
6 jurisdiction may be raised by a party, or by a court on its own initiative, at any stage in the
7 litigation, even after trial and the entry of judgment. *Arbaugh v. Y&H Corp.*, 546 U.S. 500, 506
8 (2006). The challenge can be either facial or factual. *White v. Lee*, 227 F.3d 1214, 1242 (9th Cir.
9 2000).

10 “When subject matter jurisdiction is challenged under Federal Rule of [Civil] Procedure
11 12(b)(1), the plaintiff has the burden of proving jurisdiction in order to survive the
12 motion.” *Tosco Corp. v. Communities for a Better Env’t*, 236 F.3d 495, 499 (9th Cir. 2001)
13 (abrogated on other grounds by *Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 559 U.S. 77 (2010)). “Unless the
14 jurisdictional issue is inextricable from the merits of a case, the court may determine jurisdiction
15 on a motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(1)[.]” *Robinson v. U.S.*, 586
16 F.3d 683, 685 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal citations omitted). “A suit brought by a plaintiff without
17 Article III standing is not a ‘case or controversy,’ and an Article III federal court therefore lacks
18 subject matter jurisdiction over the suit.” *Cetacean Cnty. v. Bush*, 386 F.3d 1169, 1174 (9th Cir.
19 2004). If a court determines at any time that it lacks subject matter jurisdiction, “the court must
20 dismiss the action.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3).

21 **B. Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to 12(b)(6)**

22 A motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted under
23 Rule 12(b)(6) tests the legal sufficiency of a complaint. *Navarro v. Block*, 250 F.3d 729, 732 (9th
24 Cir. 2001). Rule 8(a) requires that a pleading contain “a short and plain statement of the claim
25 showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2); *see also Ashcroft v. Iqbal*,
26 556 U.S. 662, 677-78 (2009). Under notice pleading in federal court, the complaint must “give
27 the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.” *Bell*
28 *Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007) (internal citation and quotations omitted).

1 “This simplified notice pleading standard relies on liberal discovery rules and summary judgment
 2 motions to define disputed facts and issues and to dispose of unmeritorious claims.” *Swierkiewicz*
 3 *v. Sorema N.A.*, 534 U.S. 506, 512 (2002).

4 On a motion to dismiss, the factual allegations of the complaint must be accepted as true.
 5 *Cruz v. Beto*, 405 U.S. 319, 322 (1972). A court must give the plaintiff the benefit of every
 6 reasonable inference to be drawn from the “well-pleaded” allegations of the complaint. *Retail*
 7 *Clerks Int’l Ass’n v. Schermerhorn*, 373 U.S. 746, 753 n.6 (1963). A plaintiff need not allege
 8 “specific facts” beyond those necessary to state his claim and the grounds showing entitlement to
 9 relief.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570 (internal citation omitted).

10 Nevertheless, a court “need not assume the truth of legal conclusions cast in the form of
 11 factual allegations.” *U.S. ex rel. Chunie v. Ringrose*, 788 F.2d 638, 643 n.2 (9th Cir. 1986).
 12 While Rule 8(a) does not require detailed factual allegations, “it demands more than an
 13 unadorned, the defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678. A
 14 pleading is insufficient if it offers mere “labels and conclusions” or “a formulaic recitation of the
 15 elements of a cause of action.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555; *see also Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678
 16 (“Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory
 17 statements, do not suffice.”). Thus, “conclusory allegations of law and unwarranted inferences
 18 are insufficient to defeat a motion to dismiss” for failure to state a claim. *Adams v. Johnson*, 355,
 19 F.3d 1179, 1183 (9th Cir. 2004) (citations omitted). Moreover, it is inappropriate to assume the
 20 plaintiff “can prove facts that it has not alleged or that the defendants have violated the . . . laws
 21 in ways that have not been alleged.” *Associated Gen. Contractors of Cal., Inc. v. Cal. State*
 22 *Council of Carpenters*, 459 U.S. 519, 526 (1983).

23 Ultimately, a court may not dismiss a complaint in which the plaintiff has alleged “enough
 24 facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570. “A claim
 25 has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the
 26 reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at
 27 678. While the plausibility requirement is not akin to a probability requirement, it demands more
 28 than “a sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully.” *Id.* This plausibility inquiry is “a

1 context-specific task that requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial experience and
2 common sense.” *Id.* at 679. Thus, only where a plaintiff fails to “nudge [his or her] claims . . .
3 across the line from conceivable to plausible[,]” is the complaint properly dismissed. *Id.* at 680
4 (internal quotations omitted).

5 In ruling on a motion to dismiss, a court may consider only the complaint, any exhibits
6 thereto, and matters which may be judicially noticed pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 201.
7 *See Mir v. Little Co. of Mary Hosp.*, 844 F.2d 646, 649 (9th Cir. 1988); *Isuzu Motors Ltd. v.*
8 *Consumers Union of U.S., Inc.*, 12 F. Supp. 2d 1035, 1042 (C.D. Cal. 1998); *see also Daniels-*
9 *Hall v. Nat'l Educ. Ass'n*, 629 F.3d 992, 998 (9th Cir. 2010) (the court need not accept as true
10 allegations that contradict matters properly subject to judicial notice).

11 If a complaint fails to state a plausible claim, ““a district court should grant leave to amend
12 even if no request to amend the pleading was made, unless it determines that the pleading could
13 not possibly be cured by the allegation of other facts.”” *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1130 (9th
14 Cir. 2000) (en banc) (quoting *Doe v. United States*, 58 F.3d 494, 497 (9th Cir. 1995)); *see also*
15 *Gardner v. Martino*, 563 F.3d 981, 992 (9th Cir. 2009) (finding no abuse of discretion in denying
16 leave to amend when amendment would be futile). Although a district court should freely give
17 leave to amend when justice so requires under Rule 15(a)(2), “the court’s discretion to deny such
18 leave is ‘particularly broad’ where the plaintiff has previously amended its complaint[.]”
19 *Ecological Rights Found. v. Pac. Gas & Elec. Co.*, 713 F.3d 502, 520 (9th Cir. 2013) (quoting
20 *Miller v. Yokohama Tire Corp.*, 358 F.3d 616, 622 (9th Cir. 2004)).

21 **III. ANALYSIS**

22 Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief and statutory damages against Defendant for
23 discrimination on the basis of his disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the Defendant’s
24 hotel. (ECF No. 1 at 8.) Defendant filed a motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(1) and Rule
25 12(b)(6). (ECF No. 5 at 2.) Additionally, Defendant requests the Court not take supplemental
26 jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s Unruh Act claim. (ECF No. 5-1 at 19.) Accordingly, the Court will
27 address each motion separately.

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1 A. 12(b)(1) Motion

2 Defendant moves to dismiss Plaintiff's claim under Title III of the ADA, arguing the
 3 Court does not have subject matter jurisdiction over this matter because Plaintiff does not have
 4 standing. (ECF No. 5-1 at 9.) Defendant further contends that the Court does not have subject
 5 matter jurisdiction over the matter because Plaintiff's claim is moot. (ECF No. 5-1 at 18-19.)

6 “[T]o invoke the jurisdiction of the federal courts, a disabled individual claiming
 7 discrimination must satisfy the case or controversy requirement[s] of Article III by demonstrating
 8 his standing to sue at each stage of the litigation.” *Chapman v. Pier 1 Imports (U.S.) Inc.*, 631
 9 F.3d 939, 946 (9th Cir. 2011) (citing U.S. Const. art. III, § 2; *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504
 10 U.S. 555, 560 (1992)). A plaintiff must demonstrate that (1) he suffered an injury in fact, (2) the
 11 injury is traceable to the defendant's conduct, and (3) that the injury can be redressed by a
 12 favorable decision. *Chapman*, 631 F.3d at 946. However, once a disabled individual encounters
 13 a barrier that deters his patronage of or otherwise interferes with his access to a place of public
 14 accommodation, “he has already suffered an injury in fact traceable to the defendant's conduct
 15 and capable of being redressed by the courts, and so he possesses standing under Article III.” *Id.*
 16 at 947 (quoting *Doran v. 7-Eleven, Inc.*, 524 F.3d 1034, 1042 n.5 (9th Cir. 2008)). Since the
 17 ADA only provides a plaintiff with injunctive relief as a remedy for noncompliance, the plaintiff
 18 must further demonstrate there is a ““real and immediate threat of repeated injury.”” *Fortyune v.*
 19 *Am. Multi-Cinema, Inc.*, 364 F.3d 1075, 1081 (9th Cir. 2004) (quoting *O'Shea v. Littleton*, 414
 20 U.S. 488, 496 (1974)). A plaintiff can establish standing to sue for injunctive relief either by
 21 demonstrating deterrence, or by demonstrating injury-in-fact coupled with an intent to return to a
 22 noncompliant facility. *Chapman*, 631 F.3d at 944.

23 *i. Injury in fact*

24 At issue is whether Plaintiff suffered an injury in fact. Defendant argues Plaintiff does not
 25 meet the injury-in-fact element for standing to bring an ADA claim because Plaintiff did not
 26 suffer an actual injury. (ECF No. 5-1 at 9-10.) Defendant contends it is implausible Plaintiff
 27 suffered an actual injury because the Hotel is ADA compliant and had accessible rooms available
 28 the night Hernandez stayed at the Hotel. (*Id.*) Additionally, Defendant argues that no injury is

1 traceable to its conduct. *Id.* Defendant states that even if Plaintiff was placed in a non-ADA-
2 accessible room on accident, he could have been moved to an accessible room if he asked. (ECF
3 No. 10 at 4.)² Plaintiff argues that during his visit to the hotel, he encountered barriers which
4 interfered with his “ability to use and enjoy the goods, services, privileges, and accommodations
5 offered” at the Hotel. (ECF No. 1 at 2.)

6 To allege an injury-in-fact, a plaintiff must demonstrate he encountered a barrier related to
7 his disability that affected him and that it interfered with his “full and equal enjoyment” of the
8 facility. *Chapman*, 631 F.3d at 947–48. Once a plaintiff encounters such a barrier, “he has
9 already suffered an injury in fact traceable to the defendant’s conduct and capable of being
10 redressed by the courts, and so he possesses standing under Article III.” *Id* at 946.

11 Here, Plaintiff alleges he encountered three barriers that affected him and interfered with
12 his use and enjoyment of the hotel: (1) the check-in counter was too high which made it hard for
13 him to use; (2) the shower in his room did not have a detachable shower head; and (3) the toilet
14 was too low and lacked grab bars. (ECF No. 1 at 3.) Other district courts within the Ninth
15 Circuit recognized similar barriers as sufficient to meet the injury-in-fact element for Article III
16 standing under the ADA. *See Barajas v. Ashford TRS Walnut Creek LLC*, No. 20-cv-01676-
17 CRB, 2021 WL 2711734, at *4 (N.D. Cal. July 1, 2021) (reasoning that lack of grab bars in a
18 bathroom and unavailable counter space were sufficiently connected to plaintiff’s disability of
19 being wheelchair bound). Here, Plaintiff has sufficiently connected the barrier of the Hotel’s
20 check-in counter height with his disability of being in a wheelchair, making the check-in counter
21 difficult for Plaintiff to use. Like the plaintiff in *Barajas*, Plaintiff has sufficiently demonstrated
22 he encountered ADA violations at the Hotel related to his disability, thus he has met the injury-in-
23 fact element.

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26 ² Defendant offers a declaration and photos of the Hotel in support of its argument.
27 However, the Court declines to consider these documents at the motion to dismiss stage. *Monzon*
28 *v. S. Wine & Spirits of Cal.*, 834 F. Supp. 2d 934, 941 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (holding that the court
 could not consider new facts and documents the defendant introduced in its reply that were not
 referenced by or incorporated into the complaint).

ii. Intent to return/Deterrence

2 Defendant contends Plaintiff has not sufficiently alleged his intent to return to the Hotel.
3 (ECF No. 5-1 at 11.) Additionally, Defendant argues that Plaintiff has not alleged facts to show
4 he is deterred from returning to the Hotel. (*Id* at 15.) Defendant points to a four-part test laid out
5 in *Strojnik v. Four Sisters Inns, Inc.*, to argue Plaintiff failed to allege a likelihood of returning to
6 a facility and thus cannot establish standing. (ECF No. 5-1 at 12); *Strojnik v. Four Sisters Inns,*
7 *Inc.*, No. 2:19-CV-02991-ODW (JEMx), 2019 WL 6700939, at *4 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 9, 2019)
8 (assessing “(1) the proximity of [defendant’s business] to plaintiff’s residence, (2) plaintiff’s past
9 patronage of defendant’s business, (3) the definitiveness of plaintiff’s plans to return, and (4) the
10 plaintiff’s frequency of travel near defendant”) (internal quotations omitted).

11 Regarding the *Strojnik* test, in *Brooke v. Suites LP*, the court held that similar four-part
12 tests to gauge a plaintiff’s intent to return to a business “are not definitive.” *Brooke v. Suites LP*,
13 No. 3:20-cv-01217-H-AHG, 2020 WL 6149963, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 19, 2020) (internal
14 quotations omitted). A plaintiff’s intent to return to a facility “may be demonstrated ‘in any
15 number of ways.’” *Id.* at *5 (quoting *Harris v. Del Taco, Inc.*, 396 F. Supp. 2d 1107, 1115 (C.D.
16 Cal. 2005)). “A plaintiff’s nonspecific allegations of intent to visit a facility, deterrence by the
17 facility’s non-compliance, and desire to visit when the non-compliance is cured is sufficient to
18 establish standing.” *Hernandez v. Welcome Sacramento, LLC*, No. 2:20-cv-2061-KJM-JDP,
19 2021 WL 4318256, at *3 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 23, 2021).

20 Here, Plaintiff alleges he regularly travels to the area where the Hotel is located. (ECF
21 No. 1 at 2.) Additionally, Plaintiff states he is deterred from staying at the Hotel due to the
22 barriers he experienced, but he will return to the facility once the barriers are removed. (*Id* at 3.)
23 “[A] plaintiff’s vague allegations that they intended to visit a facility, are deterred by the facility’s
24 non-compliance, and would visit when non-compliance is cured are sufficient to establish
25 standing” at the pleadings stage of a case. *Barajas*, 2021 WL 2711734 at *3; *see also Brooke*,
26 2020 WL 6149963 at *4. Accordingly, Plaintiff’s statements that he intends to stay at the Hotel
27 once it removes its barriers are sufficient to meet the threshold to establish standing. Moreover,
28 because Plaintiff alleged he regularly visits the area the Hotel is located, and that he would return

1 to the Hotel once its barriers are removed, he has adequately pleaded his intent to return to the
2 Hotel. Therefore, the Court finds Plaintiff has sufficiently alleged standing to bring his ADA
3 claim.

4 *iii. Mootness*

5 Defendant contends the Court does not have subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's
6 claims because the claim is moot. (ECF No. 5-1 at 18-19.) Defendant states Plaintiff's claims
7 "(1) that the hotel check-in counter was 'too high' and (2) that he asked for but was not given an
8 ADA accessible room" are moot because the Hotel's check-in counter is fully ADA compliant,
9 and the Hotel has ADA accessible rooms.³ (*Id.*) In *Barajas*, the court reasoned that the defendant
10 made a factual attack on the plaintiff's subject matter jurisdiction because the defendant disputed
11 plaintiff's allegations about the hotel in question being ADA compliant. 2021 WL 2711734, at
12 *4. The defendant alleged that since its hotel had ADA compliant rooms the plaintiff had no
13 standing to bring a claim. *Id.* Similarly here, Defendant's contention is a factual attack on
14 subject matter jurisdiction.

15 In a motion to dismiss "a [j]urisdictional finding of genuinely disputed facts is
16 inappropriate when the jurisdictional issue and substantive issues are so intertwined that the
17 question of jurisdiction is dependent on the resolution of factual issues going to the merits of an
18 action." *Hopson v. Plaza*, No. 2:14-cv-02988-TLN-KJN, 2016 WL 1599477, at *2 (E.D. Cal.
19 Apr. 21, 2016) (quoting *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2004)).
20 "In such a case, the district court assumes the truth of allegations in a complaint . . . unless
21 controverted by undisputed facts in the record." *Roberts v. Corrothers*, 812 F.2d 1173, 1177 (9th
22 Cir. 1987).

23 Here, the jurisdictional issue and the substantive issue are intertwined because the

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25 ³ Defendant requests that the Court take Judicial Notice of photographs of the hotel website
26 and references a declaration from its Hotel manager that was not attached to its motion to dismiss.
27 (ECF No. 5-2 at 2.) However, the Court declines to consider these documents at this time.
28 *Johnson v. Garden Ct. Inn LLC*, No. 21-cv-01546-HSG, 2021 WL 3209721, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Jul.
29, 2021) (reasoning a general manager's declaration and defendant's photos regarding its hotel's
ADA compliance are self-serving and not offered by experts).

1 question of the Court's subject matter jurisdiction is dependent on the fact of whether the Hotel's
2 check-in counter is ADA compliant. Accordingly, the Court cannot resolve the disputed facts the
3 Defendant raised at the pleading stage.

4 Therefore, the Court DENIES Defendant's Motion to Dismiss for lack of subject matter
5 jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(1).

6 B. 12(b)(6) Motion

7 Defendant moves to dismiss Plaintiff's complaint for failure to state a claim pursuant to
8 Rule 12(b)(6). (ECF No. 5 at 2.)

9 Title III of the ADA protects individuals from discrimination "on the basis of disability in
10 the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or
11 accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or
12 leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation." 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a). For a Title III
13 claim to survive a motion to dismiss, a plaintiff must show that: "(1) [he] is disabled within the
14 meaning of the ADA; (2) the defendant is a private entity that owns, leases, or operates a place of
15 public accommodation; and (3) the plaintiff was denied public accommodations by the defendant
16 because of [his] disability." *Molski v. M.J. Cable, Inc.*, 481 F.3d 724, 730 (9th Cir. 2007).

17 Plaintiff has pleaded a *prima facie* case. Defendant does not dispute Plaintiff's allegations
18 that pursuant to "all applicable California and United States laws" he is physically disabled and
19 "must use a wheelchair for mobility." (ECF No. 1 at 2.) Nor does Defendant dispute Plaintiff's
20 allegation Defendant owns, operates, and/or leases the Hotel and that the Hotel is "a public
21 accommodation as defined by applicable state and federal laws." (*Id.*) At issue is whether
22 Plaintiff was denied public accommodation because of his disability.

23 Plaintiff alleges he encountered barriers related to his disability that "interfered with, if
24 not outright denied" his ability to use the Hotel's accommodations. (*Id.*) Specifically, the Hotel's
25 "check in counter was too high, which made it hard for Plaintiff to use." (*Id.* at 3.) Defendant
26 disputes these allegations arguing the Hotel's check in counter is fully ADA compliant. (ECF
27 No. 5-1 at 18.) However, these disputes are factual, and, in a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the Court
28 must accept a plaintiff's factual allegations in the complaint as true. *Cruz*, 405 U.S. at 322

1 (holding factual allegations of a complaint must be accepted as true). Defendant's arguments are
2 "better suited for resolution when the record is more developed." *Brooke*, 2020 WL 6149963, at
3 *7 (holding that defendant's contention whether plaintiff was genuinely precluded from entering
4 lobby was factual, and the court must construe factual inferences from the complaint in plaintiff's
5 favor). Thus, Plaintiff has alleged sufficient facts to support a Title III claim.

6 Therefore, the Court DENIES Defendant's Motion to Dismiss, pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6),
7 for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

8 **C. Supplemental Jurisdiction**

9 Plaintiff's remaining claims includes alleged violations of California Health and Safety
10 Code § 1955 and § 1959, and a claim of statutory damages under the Unruh Act. (ECF No. 1 at
11 6-8.) Defendant argues the Court should decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over
12 Plaintiff's Unruh Act claims. (ECF No. 5-1 at 19.) Defendant argues Plaintiff is a serial litigant
13 and that declining to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims under
14 these circumstances "supports the values of judicial economy, convenience, fairness, and
15 comity." (ECF No. 5-1 at 19).

16 The Court disagrees as it has "supplemental jurisdiction 'over all other claims that are so
17 related to claims in the action within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same
18 case or controversy.'" *Vogel v. Winchell's Donut Houses Operating Co., LP*, 252 F. Supp. 3d
19 977, 985 (C.D. Cal. 2017) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1337(a)).

20 Here, the ADA claims and the state law claims "share a common nucleus of operative fact
21 and are part of the same case or controversy." *Id.* This is because "[o]ther than the availability of
22 statutory damages under state law, the state and federal claims are identical." *Moore v. Dollar
23 Tree Stores Inc.*, 85 F. Supp. 3d 1176, 1194 (E.D. Cal. 2015). The burdens of proof and
24 standards of liability are the same for ADA claims and Unruh Act claims, and the Unruh Act
25 "specifically provides that a violation under the ADA also constitutes a violation of the Unruh
26 Act." *Id.* (citing Cal. Civ. Code § 51(f)). Thus, the Court finds that the "state and federal claims
27 are so intertwined" that it would "best advance economy, convenience, fairness, and comity" to
28 exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims. *Id.* Therefore, the Court

1 DENIES Defendant's motion on this basis.

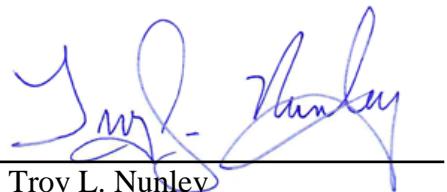
2 **IV. CONCLUSION**

3 For the foregoing reasons, the Court DENIES Defendant's Motion to Dismiss (ECF No.

4 5). Defendant is ordered to file an answer not later than twenty-one (21) days after the electronic
5 filing date of this Order.

6 IT IS SO ORDERED.

7 DATE: February 18, 2022

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Troy L. Nunley
United States District Judge

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